



IN THE CLAIMS

*The status of claims as presently amended is as follows:*

1. *(Previously presented)* An image forming apparatus for forming image of an original on a sheet, comprising:

a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets;

a memory for storing priorities between a plurality of sheet types other than sheet sizes and for storing sheet sizes and sheet types other than sheet sizes in association with said plurality of feeders; and

a selector for selecting one of said plurality of feeders to be used for a sheet feeding operation in accordance with the sheet sizes, the sheet types other than sheet sizes, and the priorities stored in said memory.

2. *(Canceled)*

3. *(Previously presented)* An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an operating section through which a user carries out various settings related to the image forming apparatus, and wherein the sheet types other than sheet sizes stored in said memory are set through said operating section.

4. *(Previously presented)* An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an operating section through which a user carries out various settings related to the image forming apparatus, and wherein the priorities stored in said memory are set through said operating section.

5. *(Previously presented)* An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a detector for detecting a size of an original, and wherein said selector selects one of said plurality of feeders to be used for the sheet feeding operation in accordance with the size of the original

detected by said detector, the sheet sizes, the sheet types other than sheet sizes, and the priorities stored in said memory.

6. *(Previously presented)* An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said selector carries out selection of one of said plurality of feeders upon start of an image forming operation by said image forming apparatus.

7. *(Previously presented)* An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said selector carries out selection of one of said plurality of feeders when a feeder being used has run short of sheets during an image forming operation by said image forming apparatus.

8. *(Original)* An image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said selector selects a feeder that contains sheets of the same type as the type of the sheet contained in the feeder which has run short of sheets.

9. *(Previously presented)* An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said selector selects a feeder other than a feeder containing sheets of at least one predetermined type.

10-11. *(Canceled)*

12. *(Previously presented)* A method of controlling an image forming apparatus including a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets and for forming images of originals on sheets, the method comprising:

a first step of storing sheet sizes in a memory in association with said plurality of feeders;  
a second step of storing sheet types other than sheet sizes in said memory in association with said plurality of feeders;

a third step of storing priorities between the sheet types other than sheet sizes in said memory; and

a fourth step of selecting one of said plurality of feeders to be used for a sheet feeding operation in accordance with the sheet sizes, the sheet types other than sheet sizes, and the priorities stored in said memory.

13. *(Previously presented)* A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said image forming apparatus includes an operating section through which a user carries out various settings related to the image forming apparatus, the sheet types other than sheet sizes stored in said second step being set through said operating section.

14. *(Previously presented)* A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said image forming apparatus includes an operating section on which a user carries out various settings related to the image forming apparatus, the priorities stored in said third step being set through said operating section.

15. *(Previously presented)* A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising a fifth step of detecting a size of an original, and wherein said fourth step comprises selecting one of said plurality of feeders to be used for the sheet feeding operation in accordance with the size of the original detected in said fifth step, the sheet sizes stored in said first step, the sheet types other than sheet sizes stored in said second step, and the priorities stored in said third step.

16. *(Previously presented)* A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said fourth step comprises carrying out selection of one of said plurality of feeders upon start of an image forming operation by said image forming apparatus.

17. *(Previously presented)* A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said fourth step comprises carrying out selection of one of said plurality of

feeders when a feeder being used has run short of sheets during an image forming operation by said image forming apparatus.

18. *(Previously presented)* A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said fourth step comprises selecting a feeder that contains sheets of the same type as the type of the sheet contained in the feeder which has run short of sheets.

19. *(Previously presented)* A method of controlling an image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said fourth step comprises selecting a feeder other than a feeder containing sheets of at least one predetermined type.

20-21. *(Canceled)*

22. *(Previously presented)* A storage medium storing a control program for controlling an image forming apparatus including a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets and for forming images of originals on sheets, the storage medium being readable by the image forming apparatus, the control program comprising:

- a first code for storing sheet sizes in a memory in association with said plurality of feeders;

- a second code for storing sheet types other than sheet sizes in said memory in association with said plurality of feeders;

- a third code for storing priorities between the sheet types other than sheet sizes in said memory; and

- a fourth code for selecting one of said plurality of feeders to be used for a sheet feeding operation in accordance with the sheet sizes, the sheet types other than sheet sizes, and the priorities stored in said memory.

23. *(Canceled)*

24. *(Previously presented)* An image forming apparatus for forming an image of an original on a sheet, comprising:

- a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets;
  - a memory for storing sheet types other than sheet sizes in association with the feeders;
  - a selector for selecting one of said plurality of feeders in accordance with the sheet types other than sheet sizes stored in said memory; and
  - an operation panel for designating a designation allowing a change to the feeder that feeds a different type sheet in a case where the selected feeder has run out of sheets during an image forming operation,
- wherein said selector selects one of said plurality of feeders in accordance with the designation of said operation panel.

25. *(Previously presented)* An image forming apparatus for forming an image on a sheet, comprising:

- a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets;
- a memory for storing priorities between a plurality of sheet types other than sheet sizes and for storing sheet types other than sheet sizes in association with said plurality of feeders; and
- a selector for selecting one of said plurality of feeders to be used for a sheet feeding operation in accordance with the sheet types and the priorities stored in said memory.

26. *(Previously presented)* An image forming apparatus for forming an image on a sheet, comprising:

- a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets;
  - a memory for storing sheet types other than sheet sizes in association with the feeders;
- and
- a selector for selecting one of said plurality of feeders in accordance with the sheet types stored in said memory,

wherein said selector selects one of said plurality of feeders in accordance with a designation allowing a change to the feeder that feeds a different type sheet in a case where the selected feeder has run out of sheets during an image forming operation.

27. (*Previously presented*) A storage medium storing a computer readable control program for controlling an image forming apparatus including a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets and a selector for selecting one of said plurality of feeders in accordance with sheet types other than sheet sizes, the control program comprising:

- a code for designating a designation allowing a change to the feeder that feeds a different type sheet in a case where the selected feeder has run out of sheets during an image forming operation; and

- a code for sending the designation designated by said designating code.

28. (*New*) An image forming apparatus for forming an image on a sheet, comprising:

- a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets;

- a memory for storing sheet types other than sheet sizes in association with the feeders;

and

- a selector for selecting one of said plurality of feeders in accordance with the sheet types stored in said memory,

- wherein said selector selects one of said plurality of feeders in accordance with a designation allowing a change to the feeder that feeds a different type sheet in a case where the selected feeder has run out of sheets during an image forming operation,

- wherein said selector selects the feeder containing the sheets of a first type in a case where the designation is not designated, and wherein said selector selects among the feeder containing the sheets of the first type and the feeder containing sheets of a second type in a case where the designation is designated.

29. *(New)* An image forming apparatus for forming an image on a sheet, comprising:
- a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets;
  - a memory for storing sheet sizes and sheet types in association with the feeders;
  - a selector for selecting one of said plurality of feeders in accordance with the sheet sizes and the sheet types stored in said memory; and
  - an operation panel for designating a designation allowing a change to the feeder that feeds a different type sheet in a case where the selected feeder has run short of sheets during an image forming operation,
- wherein said selector selects one of said plurality of feeders in accordance with the designation of said operation panel.
30. *(New)* An image forming apparatus for forming an image on a sheet, comprising:
- a plurality of feeders for feeding sheets;
  - a memory for storing sheet sizes and sheet types in association with the feeders; and
  - a selector for selecting one of said plurality of feeders in accordance with the sheet sizes and the sheet types stored in said memory,
- wherein, when the selected feeder runs short of sheets in a case where a designation allowing a change to the feeder that feeds a different type sheet is designated, said selector selects the other feeder that contains sheets of the same size and a sheet type different from the sheet type of sheets that have been fed until then, if there is no feeder that contains sheets of the same size and the same type as the sheet size and the sheet type of sheets that have been fed until then.
31. *(New)* An image forming apparatus according to claim 30, wherein, when the selected feeder runs short of sheets in a case where said designation is not designated, a feeding operation of said plurality of feeders is stopped, if there is no feeder that contains sheets of the same size and the same type as the sheet size and the sheet type of sheets that have been fed until then.

32. *(New)* An image forming apparatus according to claim 31, wherein a message indicating a sheet exhaustion is displayed on said operation panel when the feeding operation of said plurality of feeders is stopped.

33. *(New)* An image forming apparatus according to claim 30, wherein, when the selected feeder runs short of sheets, said selector selects the other feeder that contains sheets of the same size and the same type as the sheet size and the sheet type of sheets that have been fed until then.

34. *(New)* An image forming apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising an operation panel for designating the designation allowing a change to the feeder that feeds a different type sheet in a case where the selected feeder has run short of sheets during an image forming operation.